US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## Michigan Education Association



2755 Carpenter Road, 3SW, Suite A Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1186 734/973-9600 Fax 734/973-0771

August 17, 2000

Anne Goode EPA Office of Civil Rights (MC1201A) 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Goode:

I am an employee of the Michigan Education Association/NEA, but this letter is not being written to you as such. In fact, I am an American citizen who has always believed that fairness and equality are rights which all of our citizens should be allowed to enjoy. I was raised with a social conscience, and when I hear or read of an injustice to one segment of our society, I find that I can not sit idly by and not express my outrage.

Recently, I read about a situation which is being labeled as "environmental discrimination." This involves the placing of industrial incinerators in neighborhoods which are inhabited mainly by people of color. These neighborhoods are also being inhabited by people who can least afford to fight these encroachments upon their health and safety. This in direct violation of Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act, and these encroachments must stop now.

I am a father, have been an educator for thirty-three years and now am hired to defend the rights of individuals. I would not want my children living in contaminated neighborhoods. I would not have wanted to teach in contaminated neighborhoods. I do not want schools which house our most precious natural resource, our children, built or near these incineration sites. For these reasons I would urge you and the EPA to change its Title 6 Guidance. It is right to do so to insure that all of our citizens share in the health and well-being of this great country.

I thank you for your time and urge your strong consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Guy T. Sands

c. Catherine Anthony